**EXPORT TO CZECH REPUBLIC OF COLLAGEN CASINGS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION INTENDED FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND THE EXPORTER**

Associated Document: 7425EHC

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7425EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7425EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country’s requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.**

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7425EHC may be used for the export of collagen casings for human consumption from the United Kingdom to any EU Member State for the purpose of onward shipment to a third country.

1. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by a Local Veterinary Inspector appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government – Rural Directorate, Welsh Government, Department for Rural Affairs, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to

AHVLA Specialist Service Centre – Exports in Carlisle, within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

**3. ATTESTATION**

* **All establishments wishing to export products with this certificate must have a system of tracing and segregation. During inspection visits the OV must be satisfied that the system of traceability and segregation is in place and functioning correctly. The inspection must include scrutiny of documentary evidence of traceability throughout the whole chain of supply from the first receiving establishment in the United Kingdom to the establishment under inspection.**
* Paragraph II. refers.

The requirements in this Paragraph rely on the certifying OV being familiar with and having access to relevant premises approval documents and the premises’s manufacturing process.

In certifying these statements, the certifying OV should, wherever possible, rely on his or her knowledge of the procurement, processing, handling and storage procedures in place at the exporting premises and/or on sight of relevant documentation such as official veterinary certification or commercial documentation.

Any requirements quoting EU legislation may be certified on the basis of the oval mark.

* Paragraph II.3. refers.

25 of the 27 EU MSs (i.e. not Bulgaria and Romania) are currently required to test all cattle over 72 months old. Bulgaria and Romania have to test cattle over 30 months old. Animals subjected to casualty slaughter have to be tested much younger (0ver 48 months and over 24 months respectively). So the statement can be certified as written. However, it should be borne in mind that the EU requirements for active surveillance are regularly being reviewed as the prevalence decreases. It is possible that from 1 January 2013, not all cattle over 72 months will need to be tested.

* Paragraph II. 5. refers.

Guarantees are required that the animals from which the material is derived have passed post-mortem inspection. Written confirmation that this is the case, which can be traceable to incoming batches of raw material and also to manufactured collagen, must be kept for audit purposes.

The paragraph may then be certified on this basis.

* Paragraph II. 6. - *Wrapping & Labelling*

The OV must personally confirm that the packaging is new, clean and unused. Also, that it is appropriate to the product and is clearly and descriptively labelled with all details outlined on the certificate.

* Paragraph II. 8. may be used to add additional health information

where required by the third country of destination.

In certifying these additional statements, the certifying veterinarian should, wherever possible, rely on his or her knowledge of the procurement, processing, handling and storage procedures in place at the exporting establishment and/or on sight of relevant documentation such as official veterinary certification or commercial documentation.

If the use of statements based on written declarations cannot be avoided, such statements should clearly indicate the source of the declaration being relied upon.

If paragraph IV. 8. is not used, or there is some space left, this should be obliterated by drawing a line through it.

4. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country.  It is the exporter’s responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.  If these do not match, the exporter should contact the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre – Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>